

Biography

Nihal currently works as a non-executive director of a capital markets group of companies in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, and represents the IFC on the board of a housing finance company in the Maldives. He also provides financial consulting services in the Asian region.

He is a graduate in Laws from the University of Sri Lanka, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.

He worked for ten years in the United Kingdom, including seven years with Ernst and Young in London in their audit and tax departments.

He has had wide experience in the banking sector. He worked for many years for Citibank in Sri Lanka, including seven years as Chief Executive Officer of the Citibank Sri Lanka.

He then became Group Chief Executive Officer of the National Development Bank. He played a leadership role in its transformation from a government owned development bank into a privately owned commercial bank quoted on the Stock Market, with subsidiaries and joint ventures with international partners in the insurance, investment banking, stock broking, asset management and private equity sectors and with subsidiary companies in Bangladesh and the Maldives.

During this period he developed close relationships with multilateral funding agencies such as ADB, IFC, CDC KFW and DEG. He also led numerous corporate social responsibility projects, including rebuilding the lives of fishermen after the Tsunami and in two crowd funding projects for the neurosurgery and cancer departments of local public hospitals.

Subsequently, he worked as Chairman of a leading finance company in Sri Lanka, served on the boards of numerous other private sector corporate entities, was advisor to the Government on the management and reform of state owned enterprises and has been active in financial sector consultancy work.

He is married to Dilrukshi and they have two adult children. His son Niraj is an astrophysicist with the University of Edinburgh in the UK. His daughter Sohanya is director of strategy and operations at the Oncology division of the bio tech company Amgen in Los Angeles.